

August 9, 2005

To: Health Care Practitioners in King County
Re: Meningococcal Vaccines

Recommendation from Public Health - Seattle & King County

Currently there is a temporary national shortage of vaccine supplies for Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4), known as Menactra, and Meningococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (MPSV) known as Menomune. At this time the manufacturer, Sanofi Pasteur, is limiting orders for both Menactra and Menomune to 20 doses per order per month from each health care entity vaccine ordering unit, total of 40 doses per month if ordering both vaccines. New Menactra orders are not expected to be shipped until September 21. Providers can contact Sanofi-Pasteur directly at 1-800-822-2463 for more information about order limitations.

During the period when the supply of meningococcal vaccines is insufficient to allow vaccination of all for whom the vaccine is recommended, Public Health - Seattle & King County recommends that health care practitioners consider using Menactra vaccine preferentially for persons 11-55 years of age who are at increased risk for meningococcal disease:

- * Persons who have terminal complement component deficiencies;
- * Persons who have anatomic or functional asplenia;
- * Microbiologists who are routinely exposed to isolates of *N. meningitidis*;
- * Persons who travel to or reside in countries in which *N. meningitidis* is hyperendemic or epidemic, particularly if contact with the local population will be prolonged;
- * Entering college freshmen who will live in dormitories.

When supplies permit vaccination of some adolescents with Menactra, all entering college freshmen and then 15 year olds (high school enterers) should take precedence over 11 year olds.

Consideration of the use of Menomune as an alternative in all of these groups is appropriate when Menactra is unavailable.

The following is a link to the CDC recommendations for meningococcal vaccines:
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5407a1.htm>